

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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R 141351Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3955

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT

REF: A. STATE 109993 B. CAIRO 4553

1. EMBASSY AGREES WITH DEPT THAT SELECTION OF CITIES FOR TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT TOUR BEST LEFT TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN HOVING AND MOKHTAR. OUR SOLE CONCERN IS THAT THERE BE FAIR GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION. HOWEVER, RE PARA 4 REFTEL A, DEPT SHOULD KNOW THAT PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM IS AWARE PRELIMINARY HOVING THINKING THAT PHILADELPHIA SHOULD BE ONE OF SITES OF "5 PHARAOHS" SHOW AND HAS VIGOROUSLY AND BITTERLY PROTESTED TO DR. MOKHTAR ABOUT HOVING'S PROPOSAL. IT WAS IN RESPONSE TO THIS PROTEST THAT MOKHTAR EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO ADD PHILADELPHIA AS A 6TH CITY FOR TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT, PARTICULARLY AS EXHIBITION WOULD COINCIDE WITH BI-CENTENNIAL OPENING CEREMONIES. SINCE IT WAS USG WHICH INITIALLY SUGGESTED TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT BE SENT TO US, MOKHTAR NOT SURPRISINGLY TRIES TO GET US TO GET PROBLEM OF CONFLICTING MUSEUM INTERESTS OFF HIS BACK. ALSO UNIV OF PENN IS ALREADY ENGAGED IN SUCCESSFUL ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK AND MOKHTAR IS ANXIOUS THAT THIS BE IN NO WAY AFFECTED BY EXHIBIT ITINERARY. BUT THIS IS MATTER TO BE SORTED OUT BETWEEN HOVING AND MOKHTAR. ACCORDING TO MLKHTAR, EXHIBIT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY JULY 4, 1976.

2. RE "5 PHARAOHS" EXGIBITION, WE BELIEVE MOKHTAR HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE IDEA OF 2 SEPARATE BUT RELATED EXHIBITS. THIS, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED AT HOVING/MOKHTAR MEETING. INCIDENTALLY MOKHTAR POINTEDLY TOLD US THAT NO ONE IN EGYPTIAN PERFORMING

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ARTS DEL (PARA 3 REFTEL A) IS AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK OR MAKE ANY

COMMITMENTS ON HIS BEHALF.

3. DR. MOKHTAR HAS CONFIRMED THAT HE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN CAIRO DURING PERIOD JUNE 6-11 AND WOULD WELCOME VISIT FROM HOVING PARTY AND ALSO SOLMSEN. EMBASSY PLEASED THAT SOLMSEN ABLE TO COME TO CAIRO AT THAT TIME. MOHKTAR REQUESTS THAT HE BE ADVISED ASAP OF PRECISE DATES OF VISIT AND NUMBER AND NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS IN PARTY SO THAT HE CAN MAKE APPROPRIATE HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

4. DCM DISCUSSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MKHTAR IN GENERAL TERMS OVER TELEPHONE. LATTER INDICATES THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM RE UNESCO CLAUSE WHICH PERTAINED UNIQUELY TO BRITISH VISIT. HIS PRESENT THINKING IS THAT PROFITS WOULD BE REMITTED TO CAIRO MUSEUM. THIS, TOO, WOULD BE MATTER FOR HOVING/MOKHTAR AGREEMENT. GOVT INDEMNITY PROVISION POSES NO PROBLEM AS LONG AS ADEQUATE INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS ARE PROVIDED IN GOE AGREEMENT WITH METROPOLITAN MUSEUM IN NEW YORK. IN FACT, MOKHTAR SAID THIS WOULD BE PREFERABLE. HE OFFERED NO OBJECTION WHEN DCM EXPLAINED THAT USG WOULD PREFER BRIEF AND QUITE GENERAL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, BUT DID NOTE THAT IF PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS COULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE IN BRITISH AGREEMENT, NEED TO OBTAIN NEW COUNCIL OF STATE APPROVAL AND ENSUING DELAY MIGHT BE AVOIDED. (IF PROVISIONS SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT, COUNCIL OF STATE APPROVAL COULD BE SLOW IN COMING).
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